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The Niagara Advance

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Thursday, February 28, 2013

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COMMISSO'S FRESH FOODS

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NOTL to rock this summer

Dallas Green to headline at Butler's Barracks

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Weighing in on throne speech

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The Salvation Army wants your pennies get it online

Humanitarian work 'rewarding'

Pedro Gomez and Dr. Dan Perossa delivering the medicine purchased with donations from his patients, friends and family to the San Juan Hospital in Esteli, Nicaragua.

Melissa Mangelsen
Niagara Advance

It's easy to take what we have access to in Canada for granted. Many of us don't realize that things like basic medicine, supplies and chiropractors are scarce in many parts of the world.

"We really don't realize what we have here, especially in Canada. The people in Nicaragua have very little and are still happy and smiling. We have a lot and still complain and take it for granted," said Dr. Dan Perossa of Virgil Chiropractic.

Each year Perossa takes a trip to somewhere that is in need. This is his twelfth year. His first five years he went to Cuba, and then to Guatemala for four years and this was his second year visiting Nicaragua, with plans to return next year.

He fundraises annually through his clinics in St. Catharines and Virgil and travels for humanitarian work.

"They really have a big need there, there are a lot of basic things that they don't have," said Perossa.

See Page 2

Spacious and Stunning bungalow edging wine country. Groomed gardens, Main floor master with ensuite, well appointed kitchen, sunroom and finished basement - must see!!

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Dr. Perossa able to help provide supplies and build relations abroad

From Page 1

Perossa, along with his girlfriend Victoria Gillett, took the trip to Nicaragua together.

Located in Central America, Nicaragua is the second poorest country, next to Haiti. The average worker brings home $2 U.S. a day. Nicaragua faces the challenges of deforestation, poverty, soil erosion and water pollution.

During his 10-day trip, he took the money he had raised through fundraising and purchased medicine for two children's hospitals.

Nicaragua doesn't have any chiropractors so what Perossa brought with him in knowledge of his 15 years he was able to share with other doctors and treat patients.

"We volunteered at the hospital in the mornings and helped with orthopedic care. I treated both staff and patients and by the end of my 10 days we had a line up out the door for my services," he said.

He was also able to educate other healthcare workers about various issues of wellness.

In the afternoons him and Gillett spent their time at local orphanages playing with the children and purchasing new toys to replace the ones that were worn out.

There was also a new wing built, which was to be used for a classroom. Perossa said the desks were very old and in poor condition. With the money he fundraised he was able to purchase 24 new desks for students.

Perossa recalls his first trip 12 years ago to Cuba, and how it inspired him and motivated him to continue doing the annual trips.

It gave him the drive to raise money for medicine, school supplies and children's supplies.

What Perossa and his clients enjoy is that they are able to see the money being used.

"Rather than donating it to an organization and not really knowing where it goes, it's rewarding to see it being used and know exactly where it's going. It's a really rewarding trip," he said.

Gillett, who helps him organize the trip and purchase medicine/goods has joined him on the trip for three years now.

"Next year our trip will be to Nicaragua as well. They're expecting us back," he said.

Pedro Gomez, Dr. Dan Perossa and Dr. Nellie Rivera, head of hospital staff, with donated medicine and medical supplies.

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Carriage Trade Homes in Niagara

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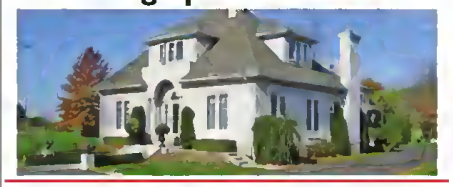

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Virtually unknown wetlands blamed on lack of communication

Property owners need to be sure they are not on protected wetlands before any land altering

Melissa Mangelsen
Niagara Advance

There are many property owners in Niagara-on-the-Lake who have property on or near wetlands, but haven't been notified about the layers of protection and what that means for them.

What that means for those who are affected is they should be contacting the region before developing or cutting down trees and brush and if they are considered urban, they should contact the town.

The problem, says Austin Kirkby of the Town's agricultural committee, is that property owners don't likely realize they can be fined for just cutting down old brush on property they don't realize is protected.

A new provincial map shows more than 30 wetlands identified in Niagara-on-the-Lake, though some have been grouped into wetland complexes, which reduces the number to 18. But there are many more residents affected, each with property on a wetland.

Of those 18 wetlands, 12 of them are considered non-provincially significant, (NPSW), while six are considered provincially significant wetlands (PSW), Kirkby explained, and although they are treated differently, both have layers of protection.

The Town will be holding a meeting, and providing a map in the paper to inform property owners who are affected by these changes. Because property owners were not contacted to be told they may be near protective land, they may not know, or understand the fines that are associated with building too near to a protected area or clearing away brush or trees in order to develop their agricultural land.

"Communication with the public has been very weak. Before cutting or building it's up to the owner to find out if they're on protected land. These lands have various layers of protection that the property owner may be completely unaware of," said Kirkby.

If the property is on a provincially protected wetland trees can't be taken out to grow crops, although it's zoned agricultural land.

Another concern is that there are two irrigation ponds identified on the map, one of them as a NPSW and one as a PSW. Kirkby hopes to get the ponds, which could have water being pumped into them manually, removed from the map.

These areas were studied using by aerial photography followed by some field verification.

The problem with using the area images is that they were taken in 2006 and 2010 in late March and early April, when the ground was very wet.

Field evaluations took place between 1986 and 2011, but not necessarily all those years for every site.

The Ministry of Natural Resources also used wildlife data compiled from many different sources to distinguish between provincially significant and non-provincially significant wetlands.

Those evaluations took place in 2010 and for one, went back to 1985.

Each area was scored using a point system for biological, social, hydrological and special areas that included many facets. If the point system tallied an overall 600 points or biological or special features reached an individual total score of 200 points, the feature was identified as a PSW.

Going forward, the town's agricultural committee will be asking for the two irrigation ponds to be removed from being classified as a wetland and wants to notify individual landowners who own all or parts of these wetlands.

A public meeting is being planned to present them with the information. Committee members hope to have someone in attendance who can clearly explain any and all restrictions that would be imposed by the town, regional, or provincial policies, says Kirkby, who suggests watching for the notice of the meeting and a copy of the provincial map which will be published in the Advance.

Her advice now is to ensure that before you build, or clear brush or cut down trees that you contact either the town or the region first to ensure that you're not on protected land. Even without the knowledge that you are, you could still be fined heavily if you breach the rules set out, says Kirkby.

In some cases, landowners could be required to perform a Environmental Impact Statement at their expense before being permitted to clear brush or build on protected wetland.

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ELEGANT BY-GONE ERA! $1,350,000
This home was lovingly built when money did not matter & opulence was important. Life was spent entertaining in style in the formal rms or in the back terraced gardens w/ pool, fountains & patios. Dance under the stars, cook in the BBQ house or play cards in the card rm. The current owner has added some modern touches & restored some original unique features for the discerning Buyer. LuxuryPortfolio.com

Revision to 2005 Greenbelt Plan includes manmade drains in NOTL

Melissa Mangelsen
Niagara Advance

The Greenbelt Plan, which was introduced in 2005, is now causing problems for people living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, as a new revision to the mapping has included manmade drains.

The Greenbelt Plan identifies where urbanization should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological features and functions occurring on this landscape.

The town, with advice from the agricultural committee set buffer zones on these protected areas that they felt were reasonable. The range was from 10 to 30 metres from areas that could be considered fish habitat.

The province didn't agree with the town's buffer zones, and implemented their own 120 metre vegetative buffer, which is located on private property.

About 1,275 people in NOTL are affected by this, and have not been notified.

It means that people who live on these properties would have to obtain permission from the region if they are on rural land, or permission from the town if they're considered on urban land.

For anyone who wishes to add an extension onto their homes, they may be faced with the big cost of Environmental Impact Studies and any other necessary studies. Even if a resident is unaware of the buffer zone, they will still given a hefty fine for not complying.

Austin Kirkby, of the agricultural committee, said they would be lobbying to remove manmade drains from this classification.

The province believes that these drains could be fish habitat, but no studies have actually been done to see if they are.

The Greenbelt Plan is a broad band of permanently protected land that protects against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and supports agriculture as the predominant land use; gives permanent protection to the natural heritage and water resource systems that sustain ecological and human health and that form the environmental framework around which major urbanization in south-central Ontario will be organized; and proves for a diverse range of economic and social activities associated with rural communities, agriculture, tourism, recreation and resource uses.

Due to concerns raised by residents in the Niagara Region, residents were invited to attend a public consolation session to voice their views related to Greenbelt issues and opportunities within Niagara. The consultation was held Feb. 26, in Jordan.

Currently the Niagara Region is undertaking a review of the Greenbelt Plan and the impact of its implementation on Niagara.

Ontario's Greenbelt Protection plan extends through the entire province.

The project seeks to create an overall picture of the Greenbelt Plan in Niagara.

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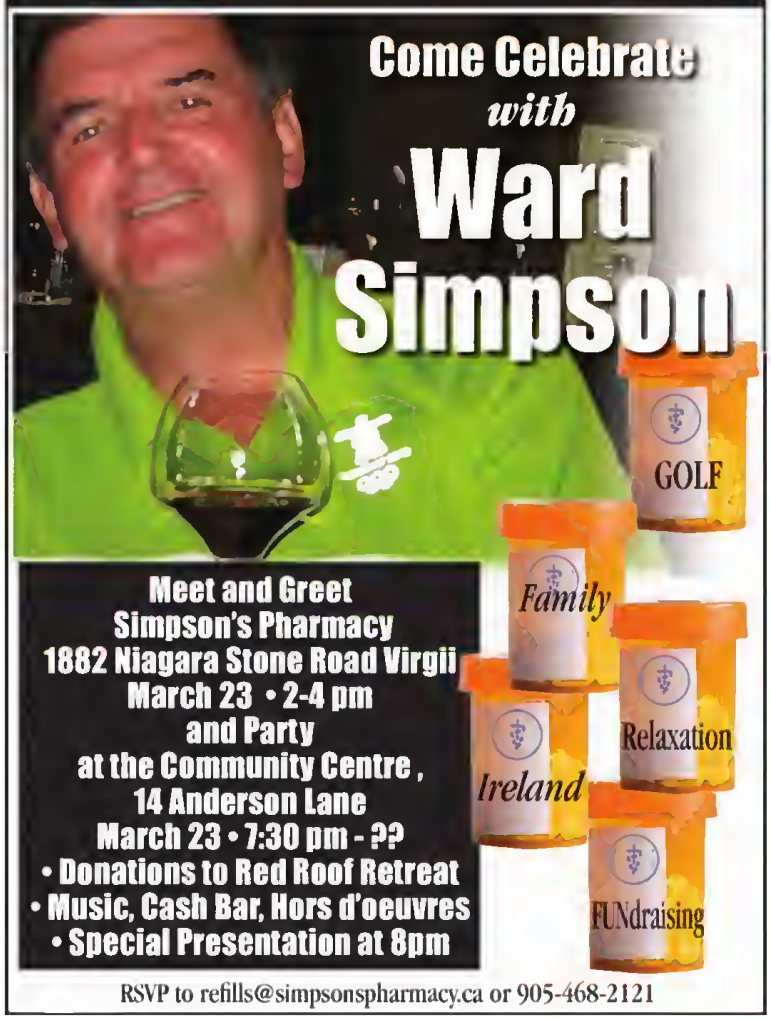

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Butler's Barracks to rock

QMI AGENCY

Following last year's successful Tragically Hip concert at the historic national site, five more acts have been booked for the follow-up June 29. St. Catharines native Dallas Green (above) will headline the show under his solo moniker City and Colour. Also on the bill will be Metric, Serena Ryder, Jimmy Eat World and Yukon Blond.

A ticket pre-sale runs Tuesday to Thursday at cityandcolour.ca/tour. Public onsale starts March 1, 10 a.m., at all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at 1-855-985-5000. General admission will be $49.50, VIP tickets will be $99.50 (plus service fees). Last year's show featuring the Hip and New Pornographers was attended by more than 17,000 people. It raised about $65,000 for Parks Canada, which made the property available. It was the largest concert in the town's history.

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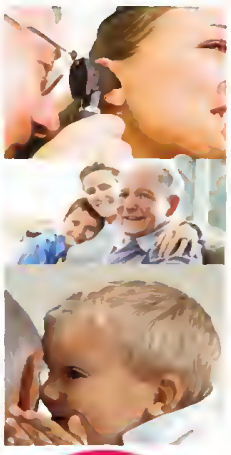

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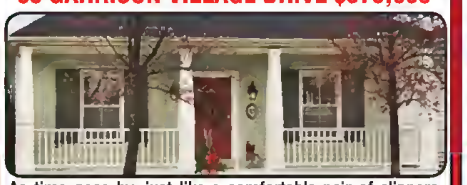
53 GARRISON VILLAGE DRIVE $379,000



As time goes by, just like a comfortable pair of slippers, this 2 bdrm, 2 bath bungalow will become the perfect fit. Just right for relaxed empty nester living, well suited for entertaining too. Spend care-free time on the covered porch, enjoy the spacious gourmet kitchen, curl up with a good book by the fire. Gord Gerrie* 905-468-8600

678 LINE 2 ROAD *from* $299,000

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STE 207, 678 LINE 2 ROAD $189,000

Exceptional value, if you are just getting started then this custom finished bachelor conversion might be ideal. There is a private balcony off the sun-filled lounge which is next to the bedroom. The trendy kitchen is finished with granite counters and a full appliance package including the in-suite laundry. Doug Rempel* 905-468-8600

12 HOPE AVENUE $349,000

This 3 bedroom, 3 full-bath freehold multi-level townhome offers all the benefits of a larger home without the yard work. The great-for-entertaining living/dining rm and kitchen overlook the family/games room with walk-up to back garden. Double garage and four-car driveway. "Also For Lease $1700 per mos." Doug Rempel*homes@dougrempel.ca

585 LINE 7 ROAD $478,500

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opinion page

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P.O. Box 430 • Virgil, Ontario L0S 1T0 • 905–468–3283 • Fax 905–468–3137

MICHAEL CRESSMAN, Publisher, 905–358–5711 ext. 1111
Michael.Cressman@sunmedia.ca

PENNY COLES, 905–468–3283 ext. 103
Penny.Coles@sunmedia.ca

MYRA ROBERTSON, Sales Manager 905–871–3100 ext. 202
Myra.Robertson@sunmedia.ca

our editorial

Town of Niagara–on–the–Lake reminds residents to stay off the rivers and lakes during the spring thaw

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake issued a warning reminding residents and visitors to stay safe during the winter months.

The ice along the shorelines of the Niagara River, Lake Ontario and all interior waterways remains unstable an thin. The moderate temperatures have kept the ice formations unsafe and it's expected that it will continue to be hazardous during the spring thaw.

Even if the area experiences some cold temperatures there is really no sure way to ensure that the ice is 100 per cent safe. Ice cannot be judged by its appearance, age, thickness, temperatures or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Ice also never freezes uniformly, so it could be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two a few feet away.

Another issue that rescue crews in Niagara have had this winter is pets falling through thin ice. Though your pet may be used to the area, they will not always know the dangers of running across that pond, stream or lake, that may look safer to them than it really is.

Falling through thin ice is a lot more common than a lot of people may think. The risk is high for young children who are playing around the water's edge. Even along the banks, the ground can be very slippery and it just takes a split second for someone to fall in.

Once you fall through the ice it's very hard to get out on your own, unless you carry around ice picks in your pockets.

Children especially, should be supervised by an adult at all times when they are around water.

Research from the Canadian Red Cross based on 10 years' analysis of water-related fatalities in Canada found 150 ice immersion deaths from fall through ice over the past decade.

Activities on the ice account for 22 per cent of water immersion deaths, 55 per cent are snowmobile related, 11 per cent to other motorized vehicles and 34 per cent are related to winter activities.

Take the warnings to heart and stay off those waters.

letters to the editor

Thank you to St. Davids Vet

This past weekend our family dog was tragically run over in front of our house. My husband, our kids, our wonderful neighbours and I ran to help the dog, and quickly called the the St. Davids Vet, and upon delivering the message to them they replied without hesitation "Yes, come, bring him right away. We will be here for you." Well, unfortunately our dog didn't make it, but after the dust settled we reflected on how wonderful Dr. Hall and Dr. Alger at St. Davids Vet were during this awful time for us. We know there is a big community of animal lovers in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and we should all be blessed to have this new clinic available to us.

I always imagined vets to be people who would help animals under any circumstances. We are comforted in knowing there are vets in our community that care so much for the animals we all love. We had to share how touched we were by Dr. Hall and Dr. Alger's care and attention. Thank you very much to both of them for taking great care of us and our dog during his last moments with us.

Erica Lepp
Niagara–on–the–Lake

Look for Community Awareness Guide

Parks and Recreation director Clive Buist displays The NOTL Community Awareness Guide, published twice a year by the Town of NOTL and the Niagara Advance. The guide is the place to turn to for information about recreation, sports, arts and cultural organizations, activities and events in town. Look for the guide in this week's Advance. It is also available at the Parks and Recreation office in the Virgil Arena and online at the town's website, www.notl.org.

When winter comes spring isn't too far behind

Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

"When winter comes can Spring be far behind?" and still they are forecasting snow. I know it is helping something - just not me. Well I spoke with a friend on Thursday and she had ecconites and snowdrops in bloom so come Friday I got the big boots out and tramped through to the south border where they come up, not a sign, so I headed for a spot on Center Street where they grow, nothing - and the snowdrops that I watch for under the birches are not to be seen either.

Well one thing I did see were two robbins - then I got all worried about them as they are ground feeders and there are no worms coming up through the soil yet and they do not go to the feeders. Oh well I wil have to find a safe spot away from the cats to put out some cut-up scraps.

Well I bought another bag of Styrofoam 'Peanuts' (the UPS Store) as I find if I put a few of them in the bottom of the pots when potting things up things work out well, they give the roots room and keep things moist, and of course I can wash them off and use them when I do my planters - they work well instead of stones and it means your planters are lighter, so you can move them around and not have to call in a crane!

One thing I have learned over the years is to appreciate foliage, while the flowering period of a plant can be short the foliage stays and so if you get some contrasts, like golden green or very dark green you have a more interesting gardenscape.

So I am going to ignore the snow and start planning the "good stuff'.

There is something very interesting on the horizon for all of us - Flora Niagara 2017. Oh it may seem a while away but this promises to be even bigger than 'Communities in Bloom' and we learned an awful lot that time around, so gardeners and non-gardeners alike rejoice in our ability to grow things here that others cannot.

opinion

Discussing mutual funds over a cup of coffee – investments are on the table

Retirement funds require guidance

Randy Klaassen
Senior's View

Seniors are known for their "coffee-shop" talk, and this time of year financial investments are on the table. When my wife and I married I had the naive hope of working together on issues of family finances, because I'm not skilled in the accounting department. When the vote was taken I ended up with the financial portfolio. With such responsibility I've learned along the way to rely on the counsel of others, beginning with my wife, while calling on the expertise of financial professionals. Fast forward to our current stage of life; the retirement funds we've set aside require guidance beyond my expertise. According to advertisements there is no shortage of willing help for options to invest our retirement money. Last year in Canada our collective future "coffee fund" held in mutual funds amounted to over $800 billion. That should keep a fresh pot of brew ready, and I trust someone will help us manage our accounts. Here's my challenge. By law my retirement funds have to be invested in certain registered accounts, and mutual funds are one option. Combined with other Canadians I entrust my portion of the $800 billion to professional investment managers because somebody has to take care of all those coffee cups. When I rely on professional services, be it anything from a haircut, to preparing a cup of coffee, I knowingly expect to pay a sum for valued services. Those who provide services deserve to be paid for benefits I receive.

When it comes to my mutual fund investments I realize I pay a "management expense ratio" or "MER" which is expressed as a percentage. This fee is paid whether the fund gains or loses value. What bothers me is on my year end statement a column tells me the dollar value my fund gained or lost each month, but not a word about how much I paid in management fees. When I asked for a dollar amount from my advisor, his response had me perplexed. Apparently mutual fund institutions are reluctant to report this bit of information.

Searching around I see the Ontario Securities Commission has been debating the disclosure of mutual fund management fees for some time. By nature investments come with risks, so having an MER makes sense. Yet as an investor I'd like to know in dollars how much I paid last year in management fees. One report I read offered the explanation that it would cost investors (that's me) too much for financial institutions to tell investors (me) how much I paid them for their services. Now that makes cents (sic). Like I said, I'm rather novice at financial issues. Perhaps someone more knowledgeable can explain why funds the government requires me to register are not subject to transparent billing for management services.

I would appreciate disclosure of how much I paid last year for someone else having the pleasure of using my money. I know there is a risk up front, but I'd also like to know what hit me from behind. I would like to see transparent billing in a dollar amount for mutual fund management fees on my annual statement. When I was a child I was told I was too young to drink coffee, so I never developed the habit. It's time financial institutions quit treating me as though I were too young to understand what they do with my money. That's my senior view on mutual funds.

Historic Oscars for Canadians

Melissa Mangelsen
Reporter's Notebook

As I woke up Monday morning the world seemed to be abuzz with the 85th annual Oscars. Who won, who didn't, Oscar snubs, the best and worst dressed as well as various tabloids trying to get those unflattering shots of some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

I didn't sit down to watch the Oscar's last night, in fact, I rarely do. Typically I find by the time the opening monologue is finished I'm already bored of it.

It was nice to see that Canadians laid claim to three Oscars this year, and also received a mention from the director of the best-picture winning film Argo.

The film itself has come under fire from many Canadians as well as former U.S. president Jimmy Carder who noted that 90 per cent of the plan to get the American diplomats out of Iran was orchestrated by the Canadians.

Through three Oscars may not seem like a lot, it was Canada's biggest Oscar triumph. Canadian composer Mychael Danna, of Toronto, took home the award for best original score for the big screen adaption of Canadian author Yan Martel's Life of Pi. Vancouver-based Guillaume Rocheron won for best visual effects on the same movie.

The third Canadian nod was for set director Jim Erickson, who is also based in B.C., winning for best production design for his work on the Steven Spielberg biopic Lincoln.

Though I haven't really watched a lot of the Oscars I did have the opportunity to head down to Hollywood Boulevard last year, and pass by the Dolby Theatre where the Oscars are held. When you see photos of the Oscars and Hollywood there's a lot of glitz and glamour, the Oscar weekend is a special time for the area. What I experienced down there was much different. Best set design should have gone to the people who organized the Oscars. The area itself was very sad, the streets filled with homeless performers, beggars and garbage.

It was a lot of young faces who more than likely headed to Hollywood with the dream of hitting it big and now found themselves in a very expensive place without the income to provide themselves with a home.

After visiting my perception of Hollywood changed drastically and it reminded me of the time Beijing hosted the Olympics and laid backdrops over the "ugly" homes for the television cameras.

Things are never quite as they appear.

Defender of the Town

MELISSA MANGELSEN Niagara Advance

Keyframe, Digital Productions Inc., becomes the latest Defender of the Town, thanks to their generous donation, announces Tony Chisholm, Fundraising Chair of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee, (middle). "Keyframe are pleased to be part of these unique and exciting commemorations that are taking place over 2013," said Clint Green (right) and Darren Cranford (left), co-founders. Their contribution will go to the Bicentennial Committee for publicizing and marketing the events planned for 2013 and 2014. Launching the company so many years ago with only two employees and a few small video game animation contracts, Keyframe now employs over 36 remarkably talented artists ranging in skill set from concept/design and 3D animation to digital compositing and visual effects. Depending on the demands of each project, it is not unusual to find 20-40 or more artists working at any given time. Keyframe took home the Niagara Original Award at the 2012 Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

Craitor happy with Wynne's focus on trade corridors

Premier promises to make trade corridors more attractive to global markets

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

With the most border crossings of any Ontario riding, Kim Craitor, MPP for Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake is pleased with Premier Kathleen Wynne's promise to capitalize and expand on Ontario's trade corridors, making them more attractive to global markets.

Wynne's proclamation came during Ontario's Speech from the Throne address, delivered by Lt.-Gov. David Onley last week.

"It will help facilitate the smooth transfer of goods through important hubs like Windsor, across the Detroit River International Crossing, and it will lead trade missions to our valuable partners abroad," Onley read.

That's good news for economies that rely on the passage of goods and tourists across borders, said Craitor - what's good for Windsor is also good for Niagara.

Niagara Falls and NOTL are both suffering from a decline in tourism, he said.

For decades NOTL hosted three million visitors a year, but that number has dropped to two and a half million in recent years.

And those who do visit aren't spending money the way they used to, says Craitor, who visits stores to chat with merchants.

"If you want to know how your town is doing, ask the store owners," he says.

"They can tell you."

People hear "doom and gloom" economic forecasts and their instinct is to tighten their belts, he says.

He meets regularly with politicians on the U.S. side of the border, and they are not any happier about the impact of tightened border security, he added.

Craitor pointed to free-trade zones that operate between many European countries as a solution to attracting more jobs and more tourists to overcome the negative impact created by U.S. security measures at borders following 9/11.

In Fort Erie, many manufacturing jobs have been lost with the closure of plants that are mostly American-owned. There needs to be legislation in place to ensure that at the very least Canadian employees are treated fairly and legally when American plants close, Craitor said.

He also continues to keep his fingers crossed, he says, hoping to see the operation of the Fort Erie race track continue through a transition period until a new mandate can ensure its long-term future.

The throne speech also discussed the necessity of responding to the needs of an aging population, more good news for a region that has one of the highest senior populations in Ontario, with 17.3 per cent of Niagara residents over the age of 65.

The speech said Ontario supports research initiatives and partnerships between health-care providers and those who need assistance.

"The demand for health care for seniors is significantly greater in Niagara," says Craitor, "particularly in the area of long-term care."

Waiting lists for beds in seniors residences need to be addressed, he said.

"That's the best place for those beds. There are too many seniors in hospital who don't need acute care."

The province also needs to invest in the front end of health care, such as providing a new hospital for south Niagara, while balancing that with supporting seniors who need beds now, or more health care that allows them to stay at home.

"Finding funds for both is the real challenge," he said, "but in this riding, both are important. I hear that first-hand from the number of people who come to see me saying they have a family member who needs a bed, and from those who tell me they need more help to keep them at home. I'd like to see them get that help."

The speech said the provincial deficit would be eliminated by 2018, youth would be helped to find jobs and those with disabilities to find employment.

An investment in education that encourages youth to make sure they train for the kinds of jobs that are out there is an important step to an improved economy, said Craitor.

The province's nine million drivers were offered reduced auto insurance rates, which NDP leader Andrea Horwath had hoped to hear. NDP support is crucial if a costly election is to be avoided, says Craitor, but more than that, he believes addressing the insurance issue is the right thing to do.

"You can't govern as a minority. You have to work with whoever is willing to support you."

And Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak has made it clear he wants an election.

"We just have to wait until the vote takes place," said Craitor.

"I hope we can work together and accomplish some good things."

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Maves has harsh words for Wynne following speech from the throne

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Bart Maves has harsh words for Premier Kathleen Wynne and her recent proclamation.

The Progressive Conservative candidate representative for the Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie riding says he keeps rereading Ontario's Speech from the Throne address, delivered by Lt.-Gov. David Onley last week, and "the more I read it the more angry I get."

He uses words such as "elitist" and condescending," accusing Wynne of offering "meaningless prose."

Prose such as "the happiness of Ontario residents must be enshrined," he quotes from the address.

"I don't want to sound like the typical opposition guy who can only say something negative. But people in Fort Erie are out of work, directly because of the decisions on the race track that haven't been addressed in four years, and she's talking about enshrining happiness?"

He says he has heard from people who watched the speech being read, people who would never have otherwise watched, "looking for a shred of something that would help . . . people in the hotel industry, tourism or who worked at the race track . . . and there was nothing."

There was talk only about Niagara as wine country, an indication that Liberals at Queen's Park think of Niagara as a weekend retreat for those who can afford to visit, not as a region where grape growers and winery owners want to raise their families and pay off their mortgages, says Maves, who represented the riding through two terms before being defeated by MPP Kim Craitor and his Liberal government.

Wynne's reference to border trade spoke of "important hubs like Windsor," without even mentioning Niagara, he said, and in another reference, this one to wind turbines and green energy, she talks about consulting the communities, when clearly the Liberal government has ignored the wishes of communities in the past and continues to on some issues, such as economic development in Fort Erie, where the province has appealed a municipal and regional decision to the Ontario Municipal Board.

"It's all just hollow words."

He also points to a recent decision to reduce the value of assessments on Niagara Falls casinos to lower taxes to the municipality as another way to "punish the riding and the region. All it's doing is pulling money out of our communities, money that will be made up by the taxpayers."

The throne speech did promise there would be a reduction to the deficit, "but then it turns around and promises everything to everybody. Meanwhile, the poor guys in Fort Erie, the people who work for casinos, they're all terrified."

The future of this Liberal minority, says Maves, is up to the NDP.

"They will hold the balance of power. Andrea (Horwath, leader of the NDP) has set down some markers that the Liberals have not met. It indicates to me she's interested in an election."

Maves says that like many other Ontarians, he feels the province "is on the wrong track."

His party and his leader, Tim Hudak, were looking for a change in direction from this throne speech.

PC representative candidate Bart Maves feels the province is on the wrong track.

"He doesn't see it, and I don't see it. I think Tim will defeat this and probably the budget as well, if it looks more of the

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Rural road safety has taken on special meaning in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Andrea Kaiser
Council Corner

Road safety is an important issue in any community. But for those of us living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it seems to have taken on a special meaning given our vast network of rural roads, the large influx of year-round visitors and the many farm vehicles in use during the growing season. While I have always felt fortunate to grow up here, one of the grim realities we often faced as teenagers was the seemingly annual news that one of our classmates had been injured or worse, had lost their life as a result of a car accident.

More times than not, these tragic accidents occurred on a rural road – a worry my parents endured throughout my high school years and one I now face as my own son has reached driving age. These events, coupled with memories of countless collisions I have witnessed at the intersection of Line 3 near my home, have motivated me as a Councillor to push for better rural road safety in our community. And while dealing with this issue is much bigger – and sometimes more complicated than one would expect – it is something close to my heart, both as a member of Council and as a mother. In the past, we tended to react to specific accidents on our roads on a case by case basis, rather than in a planned and proactive manner. However, this mindset has changed recently with the creation of our Task Force on Traffic Safety. The Task Force, which includes Council members, Niagara Regional Police officers, Ministry of Transportation officials, Town and Regional staff and concerned residents, meets regularly to review road safety initiatives and develop community safety programs, such as the Think and Drive Campaign. In October of last year, Council approved the implementation of a Rural Road Safety Review and Action Plan, which identified cost-effective ways to reduce the frequency and severity of collisions at rural intersections within the Town. The proposals included advance signs to alert travellers before they arrive at cross streets, intersections and stops and increasing the number of speed limit signs on unposted rural roads. In the near future, I will be putting forward a motion at Council calling for a full review of speed limits on all our rural roads. I believe this would be a significant first step in helping to reduce the number of vehicle-related injuries and fatalities in our community.

I, along with my Council colleagues, look forward to implementing the rural road safety plan as soon as possible.

Councillor Andrea Kaiser is a strong advocate for improved rural road safety.

To view the full Rural Road Safety Review and Action Plan, please visit the following link on the Town's website: http://www.notl.org/content/public-works.

Library getting ready for March Break with week of children's activities for all ages

Cathy Simpson
@ Your Library

Movies continue to be popular at the library and new chairs are on their way to make your viewing experience more comfortable. Movie screenings take place the last Tuesday of the month at 2:30 and repeat on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30. We also show seasonal movies and special event movies at other times.

Our movie license with Criterion Pictures has some interesting limitations we thought you should know about. We can't show films while they're in the theatres but do receive them for screening before they're released to the home market. If a film's doing really well in the theatres or is up for an award, the theatre run is often extended and we have to cancel the scheduled film and substitute another. Please call us or check our web site for details of any movie changes.

We also can't name the picture we're showing in publicity outside the library. This is why you'll see some creative descriptions of our movies in the paper. Our March Break movie is being publicized as "The Prequel to the Lord of the Rings Trilogy" and we encourage you to come and take an "unexpected journey" to see it on March 15 at 2 p.m. You can even borrow the book it's based on, "The Hobbit", from our collection so you'll know if the movie's a good adaptation. We just can't come right out and tell you the film title but I think you've probably guessed it by now.

More than a movie is planned for March Break; we have a week of great activities for children of all ages. March 12, children ages four to eight can hop in the Mad Science time machine and visit dinosaurs and other prehistoric friends. Later in the afternoon there's princess training with Disney's Sofia the First. Playdough-Mania for all ages returns March 13 and Captain Corbin the Magical Pirate visits the library March 14. Our monthly Bedtime Books goes fireside for the March Break and we end the week with a Lego Block Party and that movie on Friday. Most programs require pre-registration so please contact the library or visit our web site for details.

The next Wine & Words features award winning political satirist, Terry Fallis. Join us at Chateau des Charmes on March 6 at 7 p.m. to hear Terry speak about his latest book "Up and Down". Pick up a copy of Terry's book or any of the other Wine & Words authors' at the library.

For details or questions about any library program or service, call us at 905-468-2023, visit our web site at www.notlpubliclibrary.org or drop by to see us at 10 Anderson Lane.

MARCH BREAK

TUESDAY

DINOSAURS! ROAR!
Hop in the Mad Science time machine and visit some prehistoric friends!
Tuesday, March 12 at 10 am • Ages 4 to 8. $5.00/person
Register in person at the Library. Limited space.

Princess Training with Disney's Sofia the First
Learn what it takes to be a real princess with Disney's newest princess, Sofia.
Tuesday, March 12 at 2 pm
Ages 4 to 8. $3.00/person
Register in person at the Library. Limited space.

WEDNESDAY

Playdough-Mania!
Squish, roll, cut shape, make & create!
Wednesday, March 13 at 10 am
All ages. Free
Please register in advance by phone or in person. Limited space.

THURSDAY

Captain Corbin the magical pirate
Ahoy pirates, mermaids, scallywags and scurvy dogs! Join the Captain for an adventure filled magic show.
Thursday, March 14 at 10 am
All Ages. $3.00/person
Register in person at the Library. Limited space.

Bedtime Books goes CAMPING
Spend some time with us in the great INDOORS! Gather 'round the camp fire for stories, songs and snacks.
Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 pm
All Ages. Free
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FRIDAY

LEGO BLOCK PARTY
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Friday, March 15 at 10 am
Ages 5 and up. $3.00/person
Register in person at the Library. Limited space.

The Movie Prequel to the Lord of the Rings
Friday, March 15 at 2 pm
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(pre-registration not required)
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Programs require pre-registration.
Unless otherwise stated, please register for all programs in person at the library.

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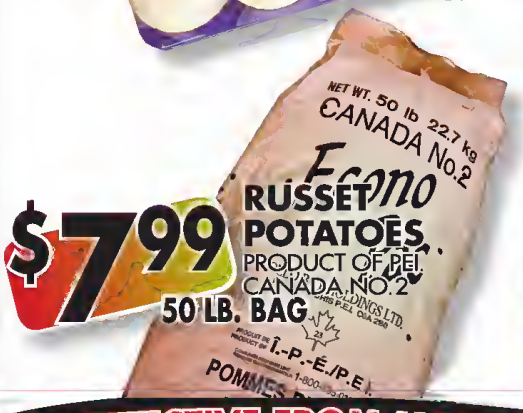

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Teachers to suspend boycott against extracurricular activities

Don Fraser
QMI Agency

It will take at least until the March Break to hammer out schedules for spring sports in Niagara's public high-schools.

This, after The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation said Friday they're suspending the boycott against extracurricular actives supervised by their teachers.

According to District School Board of Niagara spokesman Brett Sweeney, "schools (now) have time to work with their staff get a feel of whose going to return to what and what they'll be able to offer.

"Obviously we're hoping there's going to be a good turnout," said Sweeney. 'And we'll be back to something that has been much more normal than in the past."

Among those expected league sports to be saved are track-and-field, soccer, badminton and rugby. Clubs and longer trips unconnected to the school curriculum could also soon return.

Teachers had withdrawn their participation in a dispute with the provincial government over the imposition of contracts.

Premier Kathleen Wynne said following the OSSTF announcement that she offered no financial incentives to the unions to bring back extracurriculars, but opened up a discussion about how the future collective bargaining process can improve.

Even before the teachers union agreed to suspend their political action, every public high school in the District School Board of Niagara had signaled their intention to compete in spring sports.

By Feb. 15, every school had committed to compete in soccer, baseball, track and field, rugby, field lacrosse, badminton and slo-pitch. Schedules for those leagues will be decided at a March 25 meeting of the Niagara Region High School Athletic Association, NRHSAA athletic convenor Rina Rode said.

Rode, a teacher/coach at Sir Winston Churchill, was glad to hear the news.

"It will still be personal choices by individuals, but whatever those choices are, all of us have to respect that because they are for personal reasons.

"For myself, I'm very happy that the opportunity has been granted for us to come back."

The union's decision was too late to allow participation in winter sports such as volleyball, basketball, wrestling and curling.

The District School Board of Niagara.

Schools had to decide by Feb. 1 whether they intended to return in time for the playoffs. Most DSBN schools decided not to return.

The OSSTF held a Friday press conference in Toronto to further flesh out details of the expected extracurricular reinstatement.

Sam Hammond, the president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), whose members have also largely withdrawn from voluntary school activities, said his union will review its position on extracurriculars by next Friday.

-with files from QMI Agency and Bernie Puchalski.

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Former Niagara–on–the–Lake resident to face murder charges

Chris Doucette
QMI Agency

An accused Niagara drug kingpin and his alleged right-hand man face murder charges while a third man with biker ties is sought for allegedly hiring the hitman who gunned down Johnnie Raposo in broad daylight last summer in Toronto's Little Italy.

The new details of the murder that shocked the city were released by Toronto Police Wednesday.

"It has always been the opinion of investigators that John Raposo was the victim of a targetted murder," homicide Staff-Insp. Greg McLane said at police headquarters of the June 18 murder. "My understanding is that he was involved in a criminal enterprise with these individuals and as a result he met his demise."

Raposo, 35, was sitting on the patio of the Sicilian Sidewalk Cafe, at the corner of College St. and Montrose Ave., watching a soccer game on television when a man dressed as a construction worker allegedly walked up and shot him in the head with a .45-calibre handgun.

A 39-year-old man, who was with Raposo watching Italy taking on Ireland at Euro 2012, was wounded in the shooting.

Dean Wiwchar, then 26, was arrested in downtown Toronto eight days later and charged with first-degree murder.

Wiwchar, a Stouffville native with a lengthy criminal record, remains in custody awaiting trial. His lawyer has said he plans to plead not guilty.

Wiwchar was not involved in the criminal enterprise, McLane said.

It's alleged he was a hitman hired by the three newly accused men.

Nicola "Nick" Nero, 36, of Niagara Falls, who was arrested last May on drug trafficking charges, was brought from prison in Kingston to Toronto to be formally charged with first-degree murder Wednesday.

Niagara Regional Police said he was at the helm of a massive drug ring that imported $40 million of cocaine into Canada weekly, an operation he allegedly continued to operate while imprisoned.

During his brief court appearance at Old City Hall court Nero looked relaxed and stared straight ahead before pausing to glance at the sparse gallery. A black V-neck, long-sleeved sweater over a white T-shirt covered up the former weightlifter's formidable biceps.

The charges against Nero, who was represented by Melanie Webb, were not read in front of the court and Nero will be back in court on March 6, possibly by video relay from Kingston Penitentiary, where he is currently serving time for drug offences.

It's alleged Nero planned the hit on Raposo prior to his arrest in May.

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NOTL Lions Club to offer youth a safe, fun night of dancing at Old Virgil School

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Lions Club is helping to connect students from the four local schools as well as provide a safe and fun environment for them.

The first annual youth dance is scheduled to take place March 1, from 7 to 10 p.m., at the old Virgil School.

The Lions Club in St. Catharines has been hosing a youth dance for six years now and vice-president of the NOTL Lions Club Susan Snider said it's something that they wanted to incorporate into the community.

"This is the only dance in the community that includes all four schools. We're very excited for this and we've received a wonderful response so far," said Snider.

With the increasing use of social media and posting photos instantly to sites like Facebook and Twitter Snider said one of the requirements at the dance is to either leave your cell phones/cameras at home, or check them at the door.

"We don't want things to get posted on Facebook. There's a lot of issues with social media and we're trying to create a safe place for the kids," she said.

The NOTL Lions Club approached the owner of the Old Virgil School, Lloyd Redekopp, who is a resident as well.

"We talked to him and he was great. He is very community minded and wants to see more activities for the youth. He was instrumental in providing us with a place to host this event," said Snider.

Tickets for the event will go on sale from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., March 1, and must be purchased by parents. Tickets are $7, and there will also be pizza, pop and water available to purchase for $1.

"Any money we raise from this event will go right back into the community. It's been nice because we've had new members join, which allows us to hold more functions," she said.

Students in Grades 5 to 8, will be able to enjoy a DJ, lightshow, a light up blackboard and request songs.

"We are inviting students to come out and have fun," said Snider.

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Council asked to approve creation of town flag

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Melissa Mangelsen
Niagara Advance

Council received a report from the Corporate Services Advisory Committee Monday evening during a committee of the whole meeting, council was asked to approve the creation of a town flag and to seek their approval to secure a grant (permission to use) armorial bearings for a town flag through the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

Lord Mayor Dave Eke and members of the town's War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee have been discussing the development of an official town flag for a while. Currently, the town does not have a flag for display at the town administration offices or for ceremonial purposes.

If approved by council, the Lord Mayor's Office will work with staff of the Chief Herald to develop an appropriate municipal flag, reflecting the town's unique historical and agricultural heritage. Inclusion of the Union Jack, to symbolize the town's United Empire Loyalist heritage, may be considered for the flags design.

The cost for the granting of a flag includes fees for artwork, calligraphy and processing that could range from $2,000 to $3,000, depending on the time involved with the design and development.

The costs that would be associated with the flag were not included in the town's 2013 operating budget, but funding could be made available through the town's general advertising budget.

If the flag goes ahead, a formal launch would take place at the Burning of the Town event, Dec. 10.

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Annual Cuvée Weekend to mark 25th anniversary with rebirth and renewal

Melissa Mangelsen
Niagara Advance

With the annual Cuvée Weekend to be held March 1 to 3, Debi Pratt, public relations with Inniskillin said this year will mark not just the 25th anniversary of the event, but also the rebirth and renewal of one of the wine industry's most celebrated events, where hundreds of food and wine enthusiasts will savour Ontario's best wines alongside winemakers and industry insiders.

Pratt who has been with Cuvée since the beginning said they took a look at the event and reflected on the past and where they wanted to go with it.

"We wanted to take a new approach to it, to keep it fresh and appealing to the consumers," she said.

On Friday, in the spirit of a grand tasting, guests will sample some of Ontario's best wines, while chefs and food purveyors will provide food lovers with live cooking stations.

In the past, the wines poured at the event were chosen by a panel of winemakers via an awards judging process. This year, the Cuvée awards have been replaced with an invitation to participating winemakers to pour a singular VQA wine – one that they have chosen themselves as their personal favourite. This will allow for the consumer to taste the best of what Ontario has to offer and gain a unique insight into the stories behind the wines and a glimpse of the personalities of the winemakers who make them.

"That will create a unique link between the winemakers and the guests. A lot of interesting stories will arise from their reasons of choosing the wine they did and why it's their favourite," said Pratt.

Liz Palmieri, director of the Niagara Community Foundation, which presents the event said that it's exciting to be celebrating the winemaker's personal favourites.

"As we mark Cuvée's 25th year, what better way to launch our silver anniversary than with our new tasting format. It will be a memorable party to mark our memorable milestone," she said.

Other highlights include Icewine and Sparkling Wine Bars and an enhanced Aprés Cuvée party.

The Cuvée en Route passport program will remain unchanged. From Friday through Sunday, weekend guests can top off their experience by touring and tasting their way along the Wine Route.

For those who do not attend the Friday night event, passports can still be purchased for Cuvée en Route for $30.

When Cuvée began 25 years ago, it was the only wine tasting gala, since then many more have been introduced to the Niagara region.

"It's great that there's so many, but each one is a little different," said Pratt.

The event, which always has very good attendance, started as a one-night event, but as they saw people coming from America as well as other locations in Ontario, they decided to broaden it over two-days so people could enjoy a whole weekend.

"We began holding it the first weekend in March, because that's a really slow time for wine country. It was a great way to draw people into the wine country," said Pratt.

In support of the beverage industry as a whole in Niagara, the three craft breweries from Niagara-on-the-Lake were also invited to attend to provide beverages after the wine tasting.

There will be 40 winemakers representing wineries from Niagara, Prince Edward County, Peele Island and Lake Erie's North Shore. A cross section of talent representing some of Niagara's finest dining establishments will be on hand including: Chef Ray Taylor, Fallsview Casino Resort; Chef Chris Smythe, Escabéche at Prince of Wales Hotel; Chef Frank Romano and Don Dyson, Inn on the Twenty; Chef Stephen Treadwell, Treadwell Farm-to-Table Cuisine; Chef Tim Mackiddie, Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate; Chef Jason Dobbie, Zees Grill at Shaw Club Hotel; Chef Giovanni Del Priore and Chef Leonardo Priore, Criveller Cakes; Chef Manager Bruce Worden C.C.C. with Chef Dan LeBlanc, Chef Sam Seaver and Chef Professor Philippe Corbiere, Benchmark Restaurant at The Canadian Food and Wine Institute.

Foods will range from bison and smoked venison to vegetarian options including vegan chicken and waffles and golden beet ravioli. Guests will also enjoy a selection of artisan cheeses from The Dairy Farmers of Canada and an assortment of gelato from Italian Ice Cream.

Tickets for Cuvée are available at www.cuvee.ca or by calling 905-684-8688.

Proceeds from the Cuvée Wine Weekend go to the Niagara Community Foundation. Established in 2000, the foundation has raised almost $20 million and granted over $4.8 million from its endowment fund created to support local charities working in the arts, heritage, environment, social services, health, education and community development.

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Shaw Festival offers special to Niagara Neighbours

Early booking is advised as the Niagara Neighbours offer ends March 17

The Shaw Festival's Niagara Neighbours spring incentive begins this week with an offer of a $39 ($20 for students) ticket to select performances in April and May.

Niagara Neighbours, the annual thank-you from the Shaw Festival to its Niagara neighbours for their on-going support, provides early access to the upcoming season's productions at an exclusive price. New this year, the Niagara Neighbours offer has been extended to include the communities of Rochester and Buffalo.

This season, tickets can be purchased for select performances of W. Somerset Maugham's stylishly sexy Our Betters, Oscar Wilde's witty Lady Windermere's Fan and Bernard Shaw's Major Barbara, a play rich in relevant debate, between April 3 and May 19.

Early booking is advised – the spring Niagara Neighbours offer is available only until March 17. Book online and save on the handling fee.

For further details, and to book your tickets, visit www.shawfest.com or call 1-800-511-SHAW (7429) (locally: 905-468-2172). Niagara Region, Hamilton and Burlington residents, quote 13019. Buffalo, Lewiston and Rochester residents, quote 13020.

Tickets to Bernard Shaw's Major Barbara can be purchased through Niagara Neighbours.

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www.graceunitedchurch.com
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1665 Four Mile Creek Road • 905-468-8971
Sunday, March 3rd 10:30 a.m.
March Theme:
Preparing For Easter
Pastor Dave Tunikaitis Ministering
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Video series: Challenging Christians to examine their relationship with Jesus
www.gatewaycc.ca: check here for events and podcasts.

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East/West Line & 4 Mile Creek Road
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905-468-3505 • www.vaxxine.com/bethany/

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2027 Niagara Stone Road • 905-468-2611 or 905-468-9673
10:00 am Worship Service
Pastor Larry Ritter

Village Fi
St. Davids Public School Meeting at 1344 York Road, St. Davids 289-296-9036
Sunday, March 3rd
10:00am Coffee Time + 10:30am Worship Service
Village Kidz (ages 1 - grade 5)
ANXIETY: Anxiety Over Choices
Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
Sunday, March 3rd
9:30 am: 1st Service & CE
(childcare provided during entire service);
10:30 am: Coffee Time; 11:00 am: 2nd Service
(childcare provided mid-way through service)
Message by: Kevin Bayne, Pastor
Title: The Return

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Called to be Servants of Christ In Our Community"
10:00 am German Service
Message by Joachim Dau
11:00 am Worship Service
Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks
"Destructive Beliefs"
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

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www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
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Laptop donated to Hannah House

The University Women in Niagara-on-the-Lake donated a new laptop to Hannah House in support of women who are continuing their academic education while parenting either alone or with limited family support. The presentation was made to Cheryl Plett, executive director (middle) by executive chair Ursula Kucharski (left) and executive co-chair Sue D'Souza at a breakfast meeting held at Club Italia, Feb. 22. Hannah House Maternity Home is a Biblically based, non-profit agency and the only maternity home in Niagara that shelters and supports vulnerable, adolescent mothers. Their program assists young mothers to reach their full potential through services such as prenatal guidance, parenting skills and academic education. Each resident receives consultation, guidance and support for any emotional, social, physical and spiritual needs.

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Health Canada: Where are all the dead bodies?

Dr. Gifford Jones
The Doctor Game

Do you know that every day 290 North American citizens are killed by prescription drugs? To kill the same number of people a jumbo jet would have to crash every day. So why are natural remedies being removed from health food stores while drugs that kill remain available?

Dr .Zoltan Rona, an expert on natural remedies, recently told me that, "Health Canada has been raiding health food stores, terrorizing proprietors and confiscating natural food supplements." He asked, "Could you help to stop it?"

Rona described a New York Times report that the government's primary suspect in 542 deaths was Pradax, a blood thinning agent. Moreover, when this drug causes bleeding there is no antidote to stop it. Yet Health Canada has done nothing to remove Pradax from the market. However, it has removed a competitor, the soy-derived enzyme Nattokinase, a safe, effective, natural, blood thinner that has not harmed anyone and has been used for centuries in Japan.

While researching this column I interviewed several other authorities who were concerned that other natural remedies are no longer available. I also discovered a most disturbing fact. In Germany, a doctor's prescription is now required to obtain vitamin C! A red light flashed as I've recently reported that Medi-C Plus, a powder that contains a high concentration of vitamin C and lysine, can prevent and reverse coronary heart disease.

Germans now pay $45.00 for 90 tablets of 500 milligrams of vitamin C. Since I take several thousands of Medi-C Plus daily this asinine ruling would cost me $3,600 annually for C.

This shows how far governments go to control natural remedies. It's sheer, unadulterated madness since there is no known toxic amount of vitamin C. For instance, it's been proven safe to give intravenous injections of several hundred thousand milligrams of vitamin C day after day intravenously to fight infection.

Today, many people are also taking Sytrinol, a natural remedy consisting of citrus and palm fruit extract which decreases total and bad cholesterol, triglycerides and increases good cholesterol. For the moment it's still available and there's no scientific reason it should be removed. But if it happens patients will be forced to switch to cholesterol-lowering drugs whose safety record leaves much to be desired.

Alan Cassels, a drug policy researcher at the University of Victoria, says that, "cholesterol-lowering drugs are not worth the risk and history will regard CLDs as an unmitigated scandal in medicine". Readers know I share this view.

See Page 25

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Risky multimillion–dollar products approved by Health Canada

From Page 24

But hell will freeze over before Health Canada raises an alarm and closes the door on these multi-billion dollar risky products. Money and high paid lobbyists have won the day in Ottawa and Washington.

Other North Americans are taking products such as BioSil to prevent osteoporosis (fragile bones). This natural silicon product safely deposits calcium and phosphate into bone. It's even more effective if used along with vitamin D3 which helps to absorb calcium from the bowel and vitamin K2 that deposits calcium and phosphate into bone where they belong, rather than into arteries where they cause trouble.

Will these people be forced to take drugs such as Fosamax and Actonel that have been associated with unusual fractures and degeneration of the jaw bone?

If government bureaucrats are honestly interested in the welfare of medical consumers, the best way for them to make an assessment is to examine records of the dead bodies. Data collected from 57 Poison Control Centers in the U.S. showed that in 2010, there were no deaths from the use of vitamin and herbal supplements. This in spite of the fact that during this year there were 60 billion doses of nutritional supplements taken!

So where will these amateur forensic bureaucrats find the dead bodies? It doesn't require a long tedious search. The Journal of the American Medical Association claims that there are 60,000 deaths from drug use in the U.S and 10,000 in Canada every year. Now it's the 4th leading cause of death after cancer, heart disease, and str oke.

The point is prescription drugs can kill, natural remedies never. It's time that Health Canada learned this message.

To read more about natural remedies see the web site www.docgiff.com Comments to info@docgiff.com

Each year 290 North Americans are killed by prescription drugs.

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DSBN reports a trouble–free conversion to full–day kindergarten

Dan Fraser
QMI Niagara

A District School Board of Niagara superintendant reports a trouble-free conversion as its full-day kindergarten effort reaches the three-quarter mark.

This, in the face of media accounts reporting difficulty in some Ontario boards as they struggle to find lower-cost ways to house the larger classes.

Not so, at the DSBN, reports Sue Greer, its superintendent of school support services.

"We're one of the boards that has the opposite (situation)," said Greer. "In our board, we have the issue of declining enrolment and still lots of schools open, so we have a lot of space."

The province has pledged funding to do these renovations and additions as required in a program launched across Ontario in Sept, 2010 with its completion by 2014.

Greer said the ministry is also funding 25% of the schools for minor renovations to accommodate the changes — things like new bathrooms and sinks appropriate for kindergarten students.

"In the other 75% of our schools, we have those facilities already ready for our kids," she said. "So it hasn't been an issue for us."

She said the DSBN was given $10.3 million by the province to renovate and add on classrooms.

Most of those renovations are happening over the next two years.

Greer said full-day kindergarten will be fully rolled out at the DSBN by the 2014-15 academic year, per the ministry's five-year plan.

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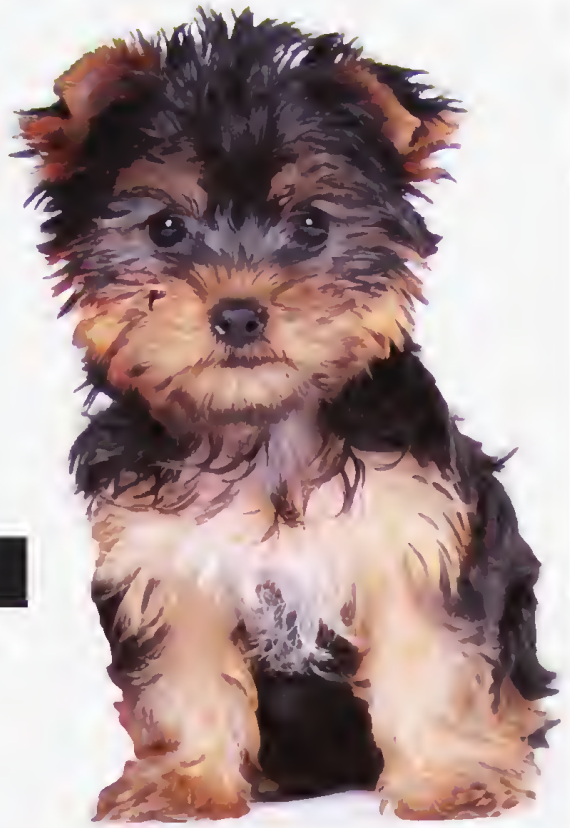

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Strong win for peewee AE Wolves

Sunday Evening the St. David's Storage Niagara Team Traveled to Beamsville to play a playoff game.

The Lincoln Home Team opened up the scoring late in the 1st period following by Niagara on the Lake's Peewee Player Nickolas Frendo who received a beautiful pass from Colby Ostromecki and Zack Mori to tie the game early in the second period.

Shortly afterwards Robbie Falk broke lose from a nice touch pass from Matthew Vandelaar to put the Wolves in the lead. Shortly afterwards Falk takes another beautiful pass from Nick Frendo and Brock Gula and fires the puck past the Lincoln goalie for his second of the evening. With only 25 seconds left on the clock in the second period Falk catches a hard pass from Haiden O'Toole and fires the puck in the visiting net to earn his hat trick.

Frendo early in the third period scored his second goal of the night assisted by Brock Gula and Zack Mori. Late in the third period team leader Haiden O'Toole catches a pass from Frendo and fires a point shot from the blue line top corner for a final score of 6-3 win for the Niagara Wolves.

Austyn Werstroh make incredible saves the entire game as goaltender.

Strong Defense was played by Colin Pederson, Caleb Mccarthy, Mitchel Brown, Colby Ostromecki and Haiden O' Toole.

The Niagara Rep Team continue their playoff games next weekend in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Wolves pick up 6-3 victory and will continue their playoffs this weekend in NOTL.

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General Help Wanted

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Community Calendar

Community Calendar

Baha'i

"The divine religions must be the cause of oneness among men, and the means of unity and love; they must promulgate universal peace, free man from every prejudice, bestow joy and gladness, exercise kindness to all men and do away with every difference and distinction."
'Abdu'l-Bahá

The Baha'i Faith
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Coming Events

Coming Events

Coming Events

MEXICAN ARTIST - RODOLFO PACHECO
well known in Mexico for over 20 years brings his exhibition oil peintings, ecrylics and pastels to the NOTL LIBRARY
MARCH 2 to MARCH 30

OPEN HOUSE
March 2, 2013 ~ 2 pm - 4 pm

FRIDAY, March 8th: Euchre Party **1:30 pm** start, Virgil Arene; $3.50 includes dessert. **ALL WELCOME** by Virgil Women's Institute for fellowship end to support community progrems.

NOTL WRITERS' CIRCLE I'm on e mission to bring local writers together – of all genres and levels of experience – **to create the Niagara-on-the-Lake Writers' Circle.** We all know that this plece has e unique spirit thet speeks to our soul and stirs are creative energies. The goal is to form e community to support our creetive efforts, share our work, provide constructive feedbeck, end, of course, heve fun. All people who love to write are welcomel The first meeting will take piece on Sundey, Merch 10th 2-4pm For info: contact Hermine Steinberg **hateinberg@aympatico.ca or 289-868-9601**

Wednesday, March 6 ~~ 7 pm
Elizabeth Greene
Brock U. Archaeology Lecture
"EXCAVATING AN ANCIENT PORT ON THE TURKISH COAST"
NOTL Community Centre, Simpson Room
Sponsored by: University Women in Niagara
Contact Ursula Kucharski **289-868-9365**

Graduations

Graduations

Congratulations

Jan, Ph.D.
and with your new position as Assistant Professor of Biomechanics at University of Western Australia
Love Dad, Mom, Andrew, Ryan, Nikki, Logan and Lucas xoxo

FISH FRY
THURSDAYS-4:30-7:30.
Royel Cenedien Legion Br. 124, 410 King St.

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Marking your milestones.

Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More

Anniversaries

25 years later
and it's still a honeymoon....
Here's to 25 more!

Love your kids,
Danielle, Hailey
and Ryan

Anniversaries

Obituaries

SINCLAIR, John Corning - (LCol Ret'd), CD, P.Eng. - In his 80th year. Beloved husband of Gwen, loving father to John Jr. and Wendy (Don), adored grandpa of Emma, Abby and Sean. After graduating from Acadia University he went on to have careers as a land surveyor, mapper, civil engineer, soldier, teacher and as an Ontario Hydro Project Manager. In retirement he was an avid chef, cartoonist, pen and ink artist, coordinator and author of a book on Survey and Mapping, pet lover, and an active member of the NOTL community. JC was an extraordinary human being; charismatic, generous, hard working, honourable, loyal and above all else loving and kind. Cremation has taken place. John's family received friends at **MORGAN FUNERAL HOME** 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday February 17th from 2-4 p.m. A private interment was held at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations to Greater Niagara General Hospital Emergency Room or Red Cross Care Partners would be appreciated by the family. You are invited to share memories, photos and condolences at
www.morganfuneral.com

A Memorial Donation has been made to
Morgan Community Fund

Obituaries

TOEWS, Cornelius (Neil) M.D, Ph.D, F.R.C.P.(C) - 1937 - 2013 - Neil died 22nd February in Niagara on the Lake. He is survived by his wife, Susan Hall to whom he was the light of her life and his seven sisters Helen, Mary, Cathy, Elly, Freda, Eve and Bertha. Sons Jason, Nelson and David, stepson Adam and stepdaughter Victoria and their families. We will all miss him terribly. Born in Altona, Manitoba he graduated in medicine in 1964 from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. He became a respected endocrinologist and internationally known researcher with a Ph.D from Queen's University, residency at McGill and finally a research scholarship at Harvard University's, Joslin Institute headed by renowned Diabetes researcher the late Professor George Cahill. He returned to Canada in 1970 as Chair of Nutrition at McMaster University in Hamilton. He continued as a researcher; was a member of the Canadian Medical Research Council Grants Committee, a valued teacher and clinician eventually to become Chief of Endocrinology and director of the Diabetes Centre at McMaster University Medical Centre. After his retirement from the University he practiced in St. Catharines and turned the local Diabetes Education Centre into a modern state of the art unit providing excellent care for diabetic patients in the Niagara region. He was greatly loved by staff and patients alike. Cremation took place 25th February. A memorial service will be held at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron Street, Niagara on the Lake, at 11 am Saturday March 2nd. Please make any donations in lieu of flowers to the Canadian Diabetes Association. Condolences, memories and photos may be shared at
www.morganfuneral.com

A Memorial Donation has been made to
Morgan Community Fund

Obituaries

In Memoriams

BERTIE MARGARET QUINN (Watson)

In Loving Memory
of our dear Mother and Grandmother
who passed away 12 years ago,
February 28, 2001

Beautiful Memories
Just as you were, you will always be
Someone special in our memory.

Always loved and remembered by your
children Margaret & Johnny Grimstead,
Carol & Gary Dyck, Lynn & Chris Smith,
Carmel Quinn and Lawrence Quinn
& your grandchildren
Casey Smith,
Erin & Mark Dyck

GWENDOLYN MAE RESCORL
(nee Southcott)

In Loving Memory
of my dear wife, Gwen,
A wonderful mother
to our three daughters,
who left us five years ago.

I have lost my soul's companion,
A life linked with my own,
And day by day...I miss her more,
As I walk through life alone.

My lips cannot tell how I miss her,
My heart cannot tell what to say,
God alone, knows
how much I miss Gwen,
In a home that is lonesome today.

Sunshine passes, shadows fall,
Love's remembrance outlasts all,
And whether the years be many or few...
They all will be filled
With memories of you.

Life brings much that alters,
Time brings much that's new,
One thing never alters,
And that's our love for you.

Dear Wife and Mom,
you are not forgotten,
nor will you ever be...
As long as life and memory last,
We will remember thee.

Lovingly remembered by her husband,
Percy...
And daughters,
Florrie, Lynn & Susanne

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

PETERS, Henry (Hank) - Who passed away, one year ago, on March 4, 2012.

Since heaven has become your home
I sometimes feel I'm so alone;
and though we now are far apart
you hold a big piece of my heart.

I never knew how much I'd grieve
when it was time for you to leave,
or just how much my heart would ache
from that one fragment you would take.

God lets this tender hole remain
reminding me we'll meet again,
and one day all the pain will cease
when He restores this missing piece.

He'll turn to joy my every tear
with thoughts of you I hold so dear,
and they'll become my special way
to treasure our Reunion Day.

- Forever loved and always in our hearts,
your wife Anne, children and grandchildren.

A Loving Tribute
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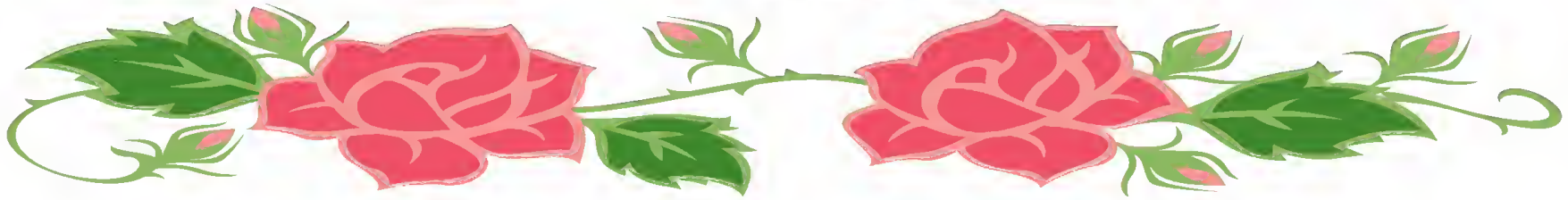

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Niagara Rangers fall short in hard–fought weekend tournament

Rangers to thank their sponsors at home tournament March 8 and 9

The Niagara Rangers Atom Girls travelled to Hamilton this past weekend to participate in Division 2 at the Blessed Sacrament basketball tournament.

It was a challenging weekend for the girls resulting in one win and losses.

Friday night's game saw the Rangers vs. IEM from Toronto. It was a hard fought game with the Rangers in it until the end but the girls had difficulty finishing their shots and came up short 25-20.

Saturday morning the Rangers faced the strong North Toronto Huskies and although Maddie Crosbie played tough for the Rangers, it wasn't enough and a series of turnovers saw the girls lose their second hard fought battle of the weekend, 33-28.

The Rangers moved on to play Kitchener Lightning and this nail biter saw well rounded scoring by the Rangers with seven girls on the scoreboard, leading to a 30-27 win. Saturday night the Rangers faced Sudbury in the consolation semi-final and again low field goal shooting percentages hurt the Rangers as they came up short, 35-26.

The Rangers then faced Lightning again in the consolation bronze medal game on Sunday and although the Rangers led for most of the game, in the seventh period Lightning's sharp shooting pulled them ahead and the Rangers lost 39-28. Tournament Stats: Julia Colavecchia led scoring for the Rangers with 45 points; Crosbie with 34 points; Maeve Martin with 19 points; Ashley Harris with 10 points and 18 rebounds; Jillian Landry with 10 rebounds and six blocks. Olivia Krieger, pointguard for the Rangers, played hard all weekend & controlled the ball well; Logan Brown, Indy De Groot, Stella Wiens and Maddie Caughill all played solid defense; Emma Parkin rebounded well and played great pressure D; Olivia

Klassen was strong on the boards and Kaityn Wiens played aggressively for the Rangers. The Rangers will be practicing hard to prepare for their home tourney at Crossroads Public School March 8 and 9 and then on to provincials in Brantford at the end of March. All fans welcome to come on out and cheer on the Rangers March 8 and 9 when the Rangers will also be thanking their sponsors in a special ceremony at Crossroads Public School.

Ashley Harris drives hard to the basket for the Rangers against Kitchener Lightning on the weekend at the Blessed Sacrament Tournament in Hamilton.

Midget Wolves go onto semi–finals

The Niagara-on-the-Lake midget Wolves came up with a big win on Saturday night against the team from Erin.

Both teams played a well-matched series, which pushed to the fifth and deciding game.

With the game tied at 2-2, it was Wolves Mark Terpak that gave his team the go-ahead goal that would hold on to become the game winner.

The close series brought over 300 people from the town of NOTL to watch and cheer on their local Wolves.

The Wolves will now go on to the Ontario Semi-Finals against St. Mary's, Ont.

The series began last night and will also be a best of five series.

The winner goes onto the Ontario Championship.

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THIS 3 BEDROOM HOME OFFERS room to spread out and spaces to curl up in The open concept French Country inspired kitchen has a welcoming atmosphere that will draw your family and friends in. The eating area and great room are open to the deck via beautiful French doors and share the fabulous view of the 205 ft deep lot.

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THIS EXTRAORDINARY 3 BEDROOM 1.5 storey home (CIRCA 1849) includes wide plank red pine flooring and restored original staircase. The custom made kitchen and great room are accented with vaulted ceilings, a wood burning fireplace, and an original farm house sink – perfect for everyday lounging and informal entertaining

NANCY BRAZEAU ** 905.371.4234

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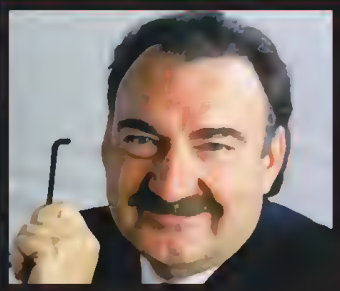

- Once again this year Kevan O'Connor & James O'Connor were awarded the 2012 Top Sales Team award from Royal LePage Niagara's over 400 Realtors®, working from 14 offices across the Niagara region.
- Kevan also earned The Diamond Award, which is the highest-level sales award for Royal LePage Niagara Real Estate Centre throughout Niagara and the Lifetime Award of Excellence presented to members attaining awards of achievement ten out of fourteen consecutive years.

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THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

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- Kevan & James continue to move forward in providing their clients with the very best service that people have come to expect during their combined 52 years in real estate and as top producers at Royal LePage Niagara Real Estate Centre Brokerage since it merged in 1994. Together with Margie van Gelder, a licensed real estate sales representative providing office/marketing support, we strive to provide all our clients with the very best service.

- Official presentation of the awards took place Friday, February 22 at John Michael's Banquet Centre in Thorold.

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY MARCH 2 – 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

This is the finest, 55 plus, life lease property in the Niagara Region. Located at the corner of Niagara Stone Road (Highway#55) and Hunter Road. The site, just outside the Old Town, is well treed with views over, orchards and vineyards and enjoying wonderful sunsets. It's a short walk to wineries, brewery, restaurant, bank and Shopper's Drug Mart. The building is outstanding, done in brick and stone, all units have glass balconies or patios. There are outdoor rec areas with bar-be-cue, there is a bus stop for the new NOTL Transit service. Inside is a library with wi-fi and a computer, common room for any kind of group or private event, fully equipped exercise room and lots of storage areas. These units are 1100 square feet, include 6 appliances, and are available in 3 layouts and also in reverse plan. Each unit has individual heating and air conditioning controls and in unit storage locker. Once the lease interest has been purchased your total monthly cost including taxes, maintenance, utilities including basic cable is $650.00. Leases start at $208,900. The seller and operator of the building has a long and well established reputation in the Niagara Region and operates Ina Grafton Gage project in St. Catharines.

725 Charlotte Street - $389,900

A quiet tree-lined street in the Old Town. This solid older home has been fully updated, spacious kitchen with appliances included. Patio doors to large newly expanded rear deck with pergola overlooking deep fully fenced rear yard & detached garage. Master with ensuite, a total of 3 bedrooms & 3 baths in immaculate condition. Not included in purchase price but could be provided fully furnished.

20 Riesling Drive - $314,900

Nestled in the heart of Virgil, custom built raised bungalow on an oversized corner lot. Open concept Kit, LR, DR, with patio doors to raised deck. 2 beds, one bath on main level, complete with hardwood and ceramic floors, cathedral ceiling and an abundance of windows making this home bright and airy. Lower level completely finished with a large rec room with gas fireplace, one additional bedroom and private bath.

1664 Niagara Stone Rd. $1650/mth

Great location for a home based business. Lovely farm house with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and a partially finished lower level with rec room and laundry. Located on a one acre lot, adjacent to Pillitteri winery with vineyard vistas. Large hip roofed barn with 2 car doors and tons of storage on the upper floor. Located a short commute from Old Town. Tenant pays utilities.

11 – 608 Simcoe Street - $369,900

Condo townhouse with a total of 1600 sq ft of finished living space. Main floor features 9 ft ceilings with Open Concept Living Rm/Dining Rm/Kitchen with island and all granite surfaces. Upper level has 2 generous sized bedrooms, walk-in closet, 4-pc bathroom with air massage tub and laundry facilities. Bamboo flooring throughout and lower level features an additional 400 sq ft of finished living space. Save on energy with Geo-thermal heating. Close to Library and new Community Centre, 8 blocks to Historical Queen Street.